

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1253 without my signature. This bill would designate “Zinfandel” as the historic wine of California.

Zinfandel wine is truly part of California’s heritage, having been produced here prior to the Gold Rush. California is known worldwide for our outstanding Zinfandels wine varieties and many of the worlds finest Zinfandels come from many appellations across California.

However, to name only one of the many of the varietals produced in California as the historic wine fails to recognize the many world class varietals produced in the State. With California’s unique micro climates, diverse geography, outstanding soils, and industrious growers, farmworkers and vintners who have mastered the delicate art of winemaking perfectly balancing art with science, it would be a shame to recognize only one as “California’s Historic Wine.”

Whether it is a Cabernet from Napa or Sonoma, a delicate Pinot Noir from the Central Coast, a Zinfandel from the San Joaquin Valley or Sierra Foothills, California produces some of the finest wines in the world. California wines have inspired authors, artists, and Oscar winning motion pictures.

As California growers and vintners continue on their quest to produce the “perfect bottle of wine” we should encourage them to use our historic varietals, traditional European varietals as well as new and undiscovered varieties being researched and developed with the cooperation of the University of California Cooperative Extension.

Californians should be proud of all our “California Grown” agricultural products because they are the fruit of the toil of the finest ranchers, growers, scientists, and entrepreneurs in the world. Singling one out in special recognition would be inappropriate.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger